

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

7 ~~TOP SECRET~~ DECEMBER 1963

1. USSR

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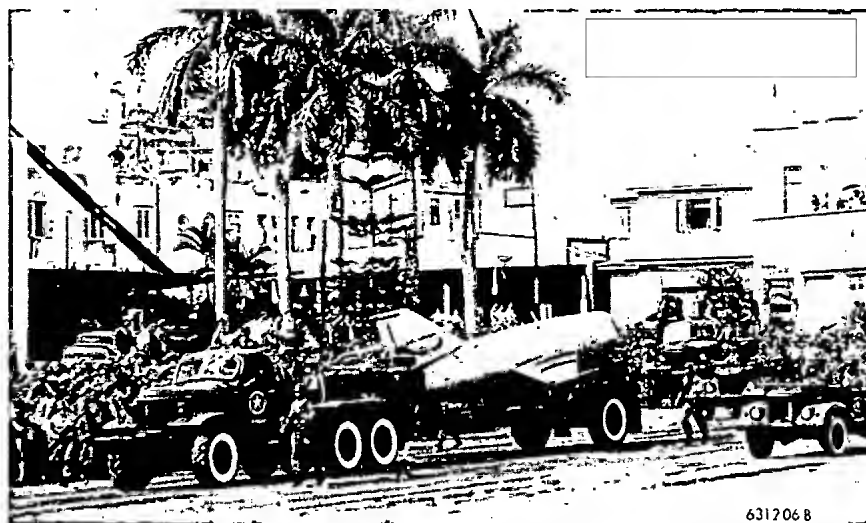
2. USSR

a. The Council of Ministers has approved the 1964-65 economic plan.

b. TASS said yesterday that the plan will ensure priority development of the chemical industry, a step-up in agriculture and a further raise in the standard of living.

c. It thus appears virtually certain that the program Khrushchev has publicized for several months will be put into effect.

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A 35 mile range cruise missile displayed
in the Havana parade, 2 January 1963.

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d. As has been previously forecast the plan will require large amounts of foreign chemical equipment, diversions of resources from other industries and some slow down in the fairly rapid rate of increase in military spending.

3. Cuba

a. Raul Castro said in a recent speech that the Soviet "coastal defense rockets" now belong to the Cuban army. He was probably telling the truth.

b. We think the Cubans have been training in cruise missile operations [redacted]. The rotation and withdrawal of some Soviet naval personnel [redacted] suggested to us then that the cruise missile system was being turned over to the Cubans.

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d. In another development the Soviet cargo ship Slutsk is on the way to Cuba with [redacted] military cargo. It should arrive shortly.

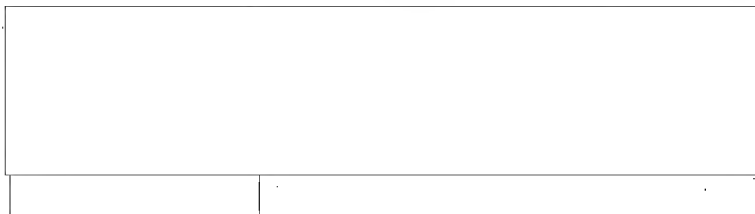
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e. These shipments probably involve resupply of ammunition and spare parts and delivery of some new military equipment such as tanks.



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4. Laos

a. As expected, distrust among the various factions in Vientiane has sharpened following Thursday's slaying of Colonel Leuang, chief of neutralist intelligence.

b. Responsibility for the killing has not been determined and may never be. However neutralist leaders blame the right-wing forces under Colonel Siho.

c. The shooting has revived rumors that right-wing military elements connected with former Premier Phoui Sananikone may soon try to take over control in Vientiane.

5. Venezuela

a. President Betancourt advocates strong measures to curtail Castro's subversive activities in Latin America.

b. He favors a "blockade" limited to ships outbound from Cuba for Latin American countries in order to prevent delivery of arms to insurgents in Venezuela.

c. Betancourt thinks that those Latin American countries still maintaining relations with Cuba should sever them. He also wants measures which will hold economic relations and other communications with Cuba to a minimum.

6. Cambodia

Paris is moving to strengthen its close relations with Sihanouk.

c. The press quotes a French foreign office spokesman to the effect that Defense Minister Messner will visit Phnom Penh from 4 to 7

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January to discuss Sihanouk's appeal for assistance to replace US aid. Sihanouk will pay an official visit to Paris early next year.

7. Thailand-Cambodia

a. A Khmer Serei radio station directed against Cambodia has been located in Southeast Thailand [REDACTED]

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b. Thai officials while not admitting official involvement have made it perfectly plain that they favor continuation of these broadcasts as long as Cambodian propaganda continues to attack the Bangkok regime.

8. Berlin

a. An East German offer to open the wall during the holiday season and permit West Berliners to visit relatives in East Berlin is not motivated by the Christmas spirit.

b. The small print in the offer is so worded that its acceptance would imply recognition by the West Berlin Senat of East German sovereignty. It would also underline the GDR position that West Berlin has a "special" status and is not tied to West Germany.

c. There is little danger that West Berlin will fall for this ploy.

NOTES

- A. Brazil [redacted] a group of younger officers are chaffing at the bit to oust Goulart. [redacted]

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- B. Communist China Premier Chou En-lai's entourage on his African junket will number 60-70 people. [redacted]
[redacted] The itinerary will include Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Albania, Ghana, Mali, Guinea, Tanganyika, Uganda and Somalia and probably some other stopovers such as Kenya and Zanzibar. At least some of these countries will return the favor. Tanganyika's Nyerere will visit Communist China in February 1964.

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- C. Cuba-Venezuela [redacted] Castro is preparing to recognize a Venezuelan government in exile composed of Venezuelan Communists in Cuba. We think there may be something to this.

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- D. [redacted]

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- E. Bolivia President Victor Paz Estenssoro is revamp-
ing his cabinet in order to neutralize extreme
leftist opposition in the ruling MNR party. Juan
Lechin, head of the pro-Communist wing of the MNR
is challenging Paz for control of the party. Lechin
wants to be named the MNR's presidential candidate
for the 1964 elections.
- F. Iraq The evidence continues to mount that a show-
down between Baathist and anti-Baathist "nationalist"
elements is close at hand.
- G. Thailand [REDACTED]

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